2025 HCCA Board of Directors 1st Meeting Minutes
Location: Round Hill Inn, Orange, Virginia

Date: Sunday, April 27, 2025 – 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Call to Order - Meeting called to order by Russell Holden at 2:02PM.

Pledge of Allegiance - **Don Plumb**

Board Member Roll Call - **Jim Skillicorn**

All of the following listed board members reported as present for the meeting, confirming their attendance and participation.

- President — Russell Holden
- Vice President — Doug Tomb
- Secretary — Jim Skillicorn
- Treasurer — Kim Simoni
- Chairman of Board — Don Plumb

- Vince Altieri
- Don Azevedo
- Rusty Berg
- Daniel Case
- Terry Cole
- Jamie Holmes *
- Peter Jakab
- Jeff Lesher

*designates new board members

All of the following listed board members were reported as not present for the meeting.

- Jeff Chattin
- Jim Diener

Recognition of Guests - **Jim Skillicorn**

Jim recognized the following guests attending the meeting:

Tracy Lesher
Lindsey Jackson

Christine Brewer
Keene Brewer
Chris Holden
Pat Hanggi
Helen Diemert
Alan Travis
Mary Travis
Wayne Simoni

Welcome new board member, Jamie Holmes **Russell Holden**

Russell offered congratulations and a warm welcome to Jamie who has graciously offered to take the open position on the board.

Recognition of Contractors - **Russell Holden**

- **Executive Secretary –** Lindsey Jackson

Lindsey commented about the changes in the database and email systems, and mentioned that she is still working off of two computers. She offered that she cannot get the old database to transfer to the new computer, and that she has been working with Peter Findlay to try and get things squared away. As part of this, the database syncing function is still not working automatically. Changes to the old profile do not get migrated automatically.

Lindsay offered that while the overall experience is that things are better for the membership, the back-end office work is still a bit of a challenge, and that she has been dealing with the fires.

Doug commented on the situation offering that Lindsey needs to have an easy database to work with and that she should receive help to move the old database to her new computer to make the work easier. Doug also offered some background history of the development of the database which went from the John Gephardt (Access Database) to Peter Findlay (Filemaker).

Don Plumb asked a question on whether the issue is related to hardware differences between the computers. Lindsey confirmed that it is a software issue.

Russell commented that he thought that Peter Findlay had already done this, Lindsey responded that Peter Findlay is doing his best, but there are still issues.

In line with Russell's comments, Doug offered that this needs to become a board focus.

In addition, Lindsey brought up that the club is not charging credit card processing fees, and that we pay a lot in fees. Russell directed Lindsey to set up SWIPE to automatically process the transaction fee.

- **Gazette editor –** Tracy Lesher

Tracy commented that she is grateful to all the contributors. She also commented that she has a lot of content (technically enough for the year), but can always use more!

Tracy offered that Gazette revenue is ahead for the year.

Election of Officers

Nominations Committee Report - Don Plumb

The committee nominates for President, Doug Tomb.
Call for Nominations from the floor: No Further Nominations
Vote for President: Unanimous approvals.

Statement of outgoing President - Russell Holden

Gavel is passed to Doug

Russell commented with pride about being the first from outside of North America in being president

Russell thanked all of the board members for the work done with him, and the help that led to significant achievements for the club

Russell offered a story about how he became a member of the board (concern over an Australian being on the board)

Mentioned how he measured the pros/cons with Chris about being on the board (was not aware of the extra level of commitment (HA!))

Thanked Christine for all her support for him being involved in the work on the board

Statement of incoming President - Doug Tomb

Doug gifted Russell with a hat with the #86 as a farewell gift.

Doug offered opening comments on how he was brought into the club looking at highwheelers in a museum in May 1991, and how Beverly helped to push him into the role.

Nominating Committee Report continued **Don Plumb**

The committee nominates for Vice President, Jim Skillicorn.
Call for Nominations from the floor: NONE
Vote for Vice President: **Unanimous Vote for Jim Skillicorn**

The committee nominates for Treasurer, Kim Simoni.
Call for Nominations from the floor: NONE
Vote for Treasurer: **Unanimous Vote for Kim Simoni**

The committee nominates for Secretary, Rusty Berg.
Call for Nominations from the floor: NONE
Vote for Secretary: **Unanimous Vote for Rusty Berg**

The committee nominates for Chairman of the Board, Russell Holden.
Call for Nominations from the floor: NONE
Vote for Chairman of the Board: **Unanimous Vote for Russell Holden**

The 2025/2026 Executive Committee consists of the Chairman of the Board, President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and two other Board Members.

The committee nominates Don Plumb as a member of the Executive Board.
Call for Nominations from the floor: NONE
Vote for Don Plumb for Executive Board: **Unanimous Vote for Don Plumb**

The committee nominates Jeff Lesher as a member of the Executive Board
Call for Nominations from the floor: NONE
Vote for Jeff Lesher for Executive Board: **Unanimous Vote for Jeff Lesher**

New Committees

Committee Assignments: **Doug Tomb**

Doug reviewed the following committee assignments

Executive Committee – Chairperson – Russell Holden

Doug Tomb – President
Jim Skillicorn – Vice President

Kim Simoni – Treasurer
Rusty Berg – Secretary
Don Plumb – Member at Large
Jeff Lesher – Member at Large

No further documented discussion

Activities – Chairperson - Vince Altieri

- Members – Kim Simoni, Peter Jakab
  - National/International Tours
  - Hershey Tent
  - Merchandising
    - East
    - West
  - Marion Welsh, Art Twohy & Joyce Chase Awards

No further documented discussion

Finance – Chairperson – Kim Simoni

- Members – Doug Tomb, Russell Holden
  - Annual Budgets
  - Investment

No further documented discussion

Regional Groups & Registries – Chairperson - Jim Skillicorn

- Members – Rusty Berg, Jamie Holmes, Terry Cole, Alex Huppe*, Gerald Robinson*
  - Group Liaison & Communication
  - Regional Groups Publications & Awards
  - Member Development & Education

Jim proposed adding Don Azevedo to the Regional Groups & Registries committee, and proposed removing Gerald Robinson

Jim also proposed adding Rob Caldiera to the regional committee

Doug was in agreement with the proposed updates to the committee

Communication – Chairperson – Danny Case

- Members – Jim Diener, Don Plumb, Doug Tomb, Keene Brewer*
  - Website
  - Social Media
  - Publicity, Marketing, & Advertising

Doug commented that the administration of the Facebook page is currently being performed by Chris Paulsen and proposed that this should be updated to an active member of the board.

Strategic Planning – Chairperson – Russell Holden

- Members – Doug Tomb, Jeff Lesher, Kim Simoni, Jim Skillicorn

No further documented discussion

National News – Chairperson – Doug Tomb

Education Committee – Chairperson – Peter Jakab

- Members – Terry Cole, Russell Holden, Chris Brewer*, John Smith*

No further documented discussion

By-Laws & Governance – Chairperson – Jeff Lesher

- Members – Jeff Chattin, Peter Jakab
    - Insurance
    - Parliamentarian
    - Governance

No further documented discussion

2025 Board Nominations – Chairperson – Russell Holden

- Members – Jim Skillicorn, Doug Tomb.

No further documented discussion

International Club Relations – Chairperson – Russell Holden

- Members – Jamie Holmes, Don Plumb, Mitch Gross* Chris Stephens*.

No further documented discussion

International Postage Committee – Chairperson – Jamie Holmes

- Members – Russell Holden, Tracy Lesher*.

Russell commented that they will be looking to add an additional member to the committee.

Web & Gazette advertising committee – Chairperson Doug Tomb

- Members – Don Plumb, Peter Gariepy * Tracy Lesher*, Kyle Blake*.

The board discussed the fact that based on the discussion on the database issue, there might need to be more focus on the database. Tracy Lesher requested that a re-evaluation of Kyle Blake's membership on the committee needs to occur based on the amount of

work Kyle is doing for the AACA and the fact that he has not attended the advertising committee meetings. Doug will look into this. Tracy and Doug will work to find an additional member for the committee.

Horseless Carriage Gazette Team – Chairperson – Kim Simoni

- Peter Jakab, Chris Paulson*, Sharon Gooding*, Howard Hodson*, Bruce Spainhower*, Eadi Popick*, Bill & Anne Ottemann*, Gil Fitzhugh*, Anne Kemp Russell*, Leo Short*, Thomas & Joyce Edfors*, Wayne Simoni*.

Kim asked if the membership on the list was still correct. Tracy Lesher confirmed that she is regularly receiving input from all of the listed members on the team

Old Business

None

New Business

- Contractual arrangements for the HCCA Annual Tour and Convention submitted by Russell Holden:

  Currently the duty of organising the HCCA Annual Tour and Convention has fallen to the Vice President, who has in the past, been required to personally guarantee the number of rooms blocked off at the lead hotel and the catering requirements, room hire and any other necessary contracts required for the successful running of the tour and convention. Historically, individuals have been forced to enter into contracts personally guaranteeing up to $40,000 in funds and requested to sign all manner of contracts and provide personal guarantees for short falls, etc.

  In organising the Annual Tour and Convention, the Vice President is organising the Club's National Tour and Convention, not their "personal" Tour & Convention. As such, the obligation for entering into contracts should be held by the Horseless Carriage Club of America at the National level, not the individual member tasked by the Club to organise the event.

  This motion seeks to alleviate this responsibility of the individual and have the National Club take on this responsibility.

  Recommendation:

1. That the Board provide approval on an annual basis for a selected HCCA member to organise the Annual Tour and Convention and negotiate contractual obligations with hotels and other necessary organizations, required for the running of the tour and convention, on behalf of the Horseless Carriage Club of America.

2. That prior to the signing of any contracts, that the Executive Board of the HCCA is provided with written copies of said contract or contracts, and will provide individual written delegated authority to the selected HCCA member to enter into said contract or contracts on behalf of the National Board.

3. The Board develop guidelines as to the requirements of the Tour and Convention for future organisers to follow.

In line with the documented items, a motion was made by Russell to nominate Jim Skillicorn to chair the 2026 National Convention and grant him authority to put the event on

Motion Seconded By: Kim Simoni

Vote: **Unanimous approval.**

Items from the Floor

Question from the audience:

Does the creation of the committee members consider the balance between folks across the country?

Doug commented that generally yes it is considered

Round Table

Vince Altieri -

Vince reported that he is working to put together a HCCA Calendar for 2026. Planning stages, plan to use photos from tours. Targeting to have the calendars available for sale at Hershey. Working to get releases signed for the proposed photos.

Kim proposed adding a call for photos to the website.

Don Azevedo: Nothing to add
Rusty Berg: Nothing to add
Daniel Case: Nothing to add (technical difficulties)
Jeff Chattin
Terry Cole: Nothing to add
Jim Diener
Jamie Holmes: Nothing to add
Peter Jakab: Nothing to add
Jeff Lesher: Nothing to add
Don Plumb: Nothing to add
Kim Simoni: Nothing to add
Jim Skillicorn –

Calendar website has been going well. Jim is requesting to identify someone to take over the calendar project on the website, he and Doug will look into it

Doug Tomb –

Doug commented that there is no 1 & 2 cylinder tour from the VMCCA, and no planned one for the HCCA. Doug also commented that he was looking forward to working with the board in the upcoming year

Russell Holden: Nothing to add

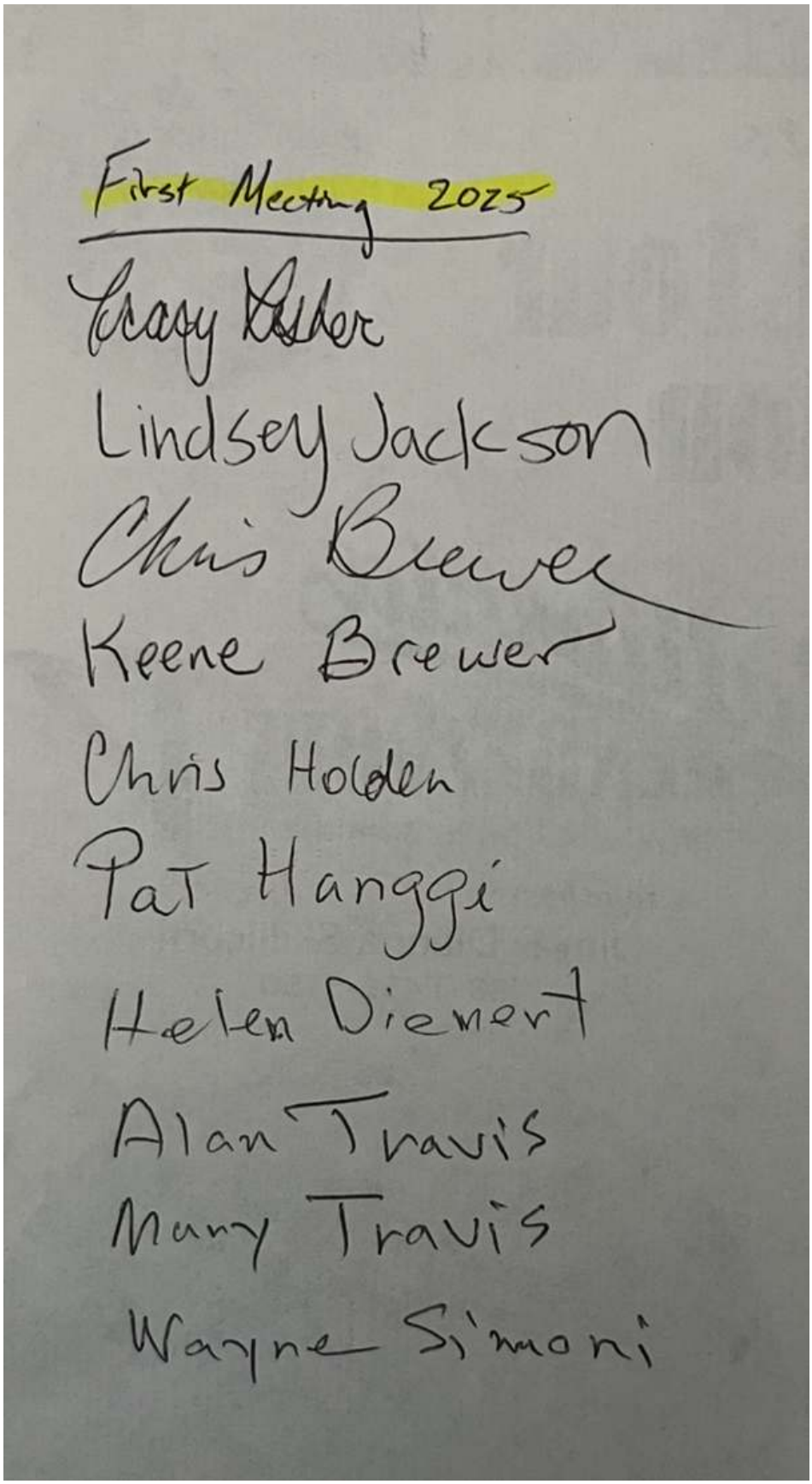
Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by: Don Azevedo
Seconded by: Jeff Lesher

Meeting adjourned 2:47PM

Next HCCA Board Meeting

Date: July 18, 2025
Meeting: 2025 HCCA Board of Directors 2nd Face-to-Face meeting
Time: 3 PM
Location Celebration of Brass V – Kalamazoo, Michigan


First Meeting 2025
Tracy Ryder
Lindsey Jackson
Chris Brewer
Keene Brewer
Chris Holden
Pat Hanggi
Helen Diemert
Alan Travis
Mary Travis
Wayne Simoni